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8. The lines of helium, the nebular lines, and magnesium 4481 A are not present on any of our spectrograms.

9. A comparison of the spectrum of *η Carinæ* with that of novæ in the early period of their history indicates a close connection between the two spectra. This fact and the great fluctuation in light exhibited by this star in the past lend support to the view frequently expressed, that *η Carinæ* is a nova. Further support arises from the apparent location of this star in a great nebula.

J. H. Moore and R. F. Sanford.

A Remarkable Thunder Storm.

The thunder storm which occurred shortly after midnight of February 18th-19th gave an exhibition of fireworks and noise which the Lick Observatory community will never forget. The conditions were very dramatic. When I was first awakened, the interval between the flash and the thunder was ten seconds; then it was successively nine, eight, seven, six, five and four seconds. This meant that the storm was approaching us and that the electrical discharges were less than a mile away. Next the interval was three seconds, and I felt sure that we were in for trouble. The two following discharges were two seconds or less away, and it is probable that these were the ones which connected with the steel dome of the 36-inch refractor. A few seconds later there were two discharges which must have hit the hill on which my residence stands (Ptolemy), for the swish of the discharges through the air was heard a minute fraction of a second before the blinding flash and the deafening crash occurred, the flash and the crash being simultaneous. Having paid its compliments, the storm continued on its way, with increasing time intervals between flash and report.

The lightning struck many times within the region occupied by the observatory buildings and residences. The great dome was struck once certainly, and twice probably. A small fire was started at a harmless point in the basement of the great dome. It was found promptly and put out without effort or excitement. The electric-lighting and power plant and the telephone system were early put out of commission. Fuses were melted in all of the buildings, and many electric lamps were exploded. Coils in several of the electric motors were burned out; copper wires were melted here and there; and all of the meters which measure the flow of current in the various buildings were damaged. Fortunately, there was no personal injury.

California is remarkably free from thunder storms, except in the high Sierras, and it was quite out of harmony with our traditions that Mount Hamilton should have serious trouble from this source. We are considering ways and means of future protection against lightning.

Lightning discharges on Mount Hamilton seem to be closely associated with sleet storms. The disturbance of February 18th-19th was accompanied by a downfall of diminutive hail stones. The ground was covered with ice balls a quarter of an inch or less in diameter. I recall that on two or three former occasions a fall of sleet was accompanied in each case by a single sharp discharge of lightning, which occurred without warning and did not repeat itself. W. W. CAMPBELL.